



St. John the Baptist Catholic

Mount Street, Bonnyrigg Heights



(incorporating Bonnyrigg Heights, Green Valley, Edensor Park, Abbotsbury, Cecil Hills & Elizabeth Hills)

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Dominic Dinh

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Office Hours: Tue- Fri 10.30am to 4pm

Parish Secretary: Leanne Lang

Bookkeeper: Yvonne Smolinski

MASSES THIS WEEK

PSALTER 2

'Prayer of the Church'

Morning Prayer is prayed
at St John the Baptist
10 minutes prior to
weekday morning Masses

Monday - 9:00am

The Annunciation of the Lord

Tuesday - 9:10am

Wednesday - 7:00pm

St Stanislaus, bishop, martyr

Thursday - 9:1am

Friday - 9:10am

St Martin I, pope, martyr

Saturday - 9:10am

NEXT SUNDAY

SUNDAY 14/15 APRIL

(Third Sunday of Easter

Year B)

Saturday Vigil Mass:

5:30pm

Sunday Masses:

8:00am, 10:00am and

5:30pm

4th Sunday of the Month:

5:30pm Mass in Tagalog

1st Friday of the Month:

7:00pm Mass in

Vietnamese

Reconciliations:

Saturdays – 4:15 – 5:00pm



Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday (Year B) 7th and 8th April, 2018

"Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Cf. John 20: 29)

With the entire Church, we have travelled a long way with Jesus through the liturgical celebrations from the beginning of his earthly life to his suffering, death, resurrection and his appearance to Mary of Magdala and his disciples. It is indeed a long journey towards the fulfillment in which with Jesus we, the believers in our time, spiritually witness why did Jesus come to the world and how did he die for our sins?

Let me remind you again the word of Jesus spoken to Thomas in today's Gospel reading "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Cf. John 20:29).

Honestly to say, it is indeed very hard for people to believe in what we have not heard and what we have not seen without any physical displays and facts. Having said this I want to mention of those who don't know anything about Jesus and want to find him or those who might heard about Jesus and want to believe in Him.

However, there are few people have been ignoring Jesus and some are trying to oppose Him and his teachings of the eternal happiness. It is hard to believe that someone doesn't want to have life of eternity or to be saved from eternal death. What is the reason for this? It could be jealousy or other reasons. Anyhow, I try not to go too further into this matter and I don't want to judge anyone on this. It is the matter of faith and of grace.

It is crucial to note that the appearance of Jesus is a significant fact to his disciples and their works of bringing salvation to all people. There are two very important aspects of this appearing account. First of all, Jesus wanted to reaffirm to his disciples that what had written or announced by the prophets about him was true and everything has fulfilled through his death on the cross and the resurrection on the third day. The second aspect is Jesus bestowed the Holy Spirit upon his disciples and the authority on the forgiveness of sins. This is indeed a true gift and grace which Jesus had given to them.

Without helps and Grace, it is impossible for anyone who wants to bring the work of salvation to others and it is also impossible for those who want to believe in Jesus. This is why Jesus said to Thomas "happy are those who have not seen and yet believe". Happy means being blessed and being blessed means having grace. However, the minimum requirement of receiving grace is the willingness and openness to the divine will. And of course the ultimate introduction to grace is through Jesus Christ. As our former Pope benedict XVI beautifully describes in his book God is near us that "He clothes himself, so to speak, in the garment of our poverty, and being taken up by him, we are able to be with God. We have gained access to God. We are washed through our willingness to yield to his love".

Indeed, Jesus opened for us a new way to grace and to God, thus through our Baptism we died and rose with Christ and became his Body. It also transformed us from many into one Body of Christ, the Church. And we can now experience this transformation in every Eucharistic celebration.

And indeed "happy are those who have not seen and yet believe" could become an excellent motto for those who pursue the Divine Grace. This motto will help us to understand from whom we can get access to God, His grace and mercy. And of course Jesus himself is the core focus, the Divine Mercy, the ultimate source and the One who brought us salvation and Grace. And thus let us keep in mind these powerful words of Jesus "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe".

Fr Phan Nguyen

Your Prayers are requested for the following, for whom Mass will be offered:

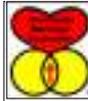


Sick: Giuseppe PIGNATARO, Giuseppe LETTIERI, Fr Jose Maria ENEDAGUILA (Spanish Chaplain), Josie HOPE, Pamela LEVERS, Horace O'DWYER, Nancy VARTULI, Doug ANDERSON, Jessie ZAMMIT,

Recently Deceased: Carmela DONNANTONIO, Lorraine JASON

Death Anniversary: Daniel VELLA

Other: Giuseppe PETRULLA, Carmelo PETRULLA, Rosaria and Pasquale PETRULLA, Giovanni and Carmela BONARIGGIO, Pasquale and Rosa LETTIERI, Nicola and Antonia VITERALE, Paul Xeng SAYAVONGSA, Mary Tian SAYAVONGSA, Special Intention, All Souls in Purgatory



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – relationship enrichment for married couples
27th – 29th April at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW
 Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Bonnyrigg Heights
FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS
IN HONOUR OF
OUR LADY OF FATIMA

I shall come to ask for the Communion of Reparation on First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, there will be peace.



Third Fatima apparition, July 13th. 1917

COMMUNION OF REPARATION ON FIRST SATURDAYS

Commencing on Saturday May 5th. 2018

- 8:00 am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 Holy Rosary and Fatima prayers
 Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
 Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- 8:50 am: Benediction
- 9:10 am: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
 (The Sacrament of Penance will be available during the Rosary or after Mass).

Whether the world has war or peace depends on the practice of this devotion, along with the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is why I desire its propagation so ardently, especially because it is the will of our dear Mother in Heaven. Sister Lucia, the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19th. 1939



ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

If you have a family member or know of anyone who is sick and needs anointing please contact the Parish office on 9823 2572 or in an emergency please contact Fr Dominic on 0423 420 639.



We congratulate the family of Blaze MANNING who will be baptised here this Sunday 8th April.

GERACE DESIGN

An extensive and diverse range of personalised Baptism and Wedding candle designs.

Also new to the range is the "Remember the Memories" keepsake shadow boxes.

www.geracedesign.com.au
 Connie 0409 46 22 99



Connie Gerace designed and made our Paschal Candle that was lit at our Easter Vigil last weekend.

APRIL RETREATS

MOUNT CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE

See Church notice board for more information



CatholicCare Sydney

Do you have time to help people in your community?

We need volunteers to provide much needed companionship to elderly people who feel lonely and isolated in South West and Inner West Sydney. If you have time to spend with someone who would truly appreciate it, please call us on **13 18 19** and become a volunteer today. Visit us on the web at www.catholiccare.org

Catechism of the Catholic Church

644 Even when faced with the reality of the risen Jesus the disciples are still doubtful... St Matthew relates that during the risen Lord's last appearance in Galilee 'some doubted.' Therefore the hypothesis that the resurrection was produced by the apostles' faith (or credulity) will not hold up. On the contrary their faith in the resurrection was born, under the action of divine grace, from their direct experience of the reality of the risen Jesus.

PARISH SACRAMENT INFORMATION



Baptisms - If you wish to Baptise your child here in the Parish you will need to attend **10:00am Mass on Sunday 6th May**. Following Mass Fr Dominic, Fr Phan and Deacon Mervyn will meet with you in the Parish Meeting Room.



First Holy Communion - Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June and Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June.



Reconciliation - There will be NO Sacramental Program for Reconciliation this year. The Reconciliation Sacramental program will recommence in November 2019 for children Year 3 and above.



Confirmation - Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September.

Please keep watching this space for changes and updates or contact the Parish Office for more information.



PARISH MORNING TEA EVERY SUNDAY AFTER 10AM MASS

The Parish will now be holding a morning tea after the 10am Mass every Sunday. Please bring along a plate to share and stay to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with your community.

PARISH FORUM: Easter is a wonderful celebration for us all. It invites us to transforming and renewing. So now we continue to explore ways to enrich the life of our parish and how to be a missionary church in years to come. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to welcome all parishioners to the Parish Forum on **Sunday 8/4/2018 at 11:15am in the Church**.

Light lunch will be provided after the meeting.



TREE LOPPING

We are in urgent need of a Tree Lopper for a small job in the Church. If we have anyone that could volunteer their services please contact Grant Dunn on 0409 958 744.

Ministries Next Week 14/15 APRIL	Sat 5.30 pm	Sun 8.00 am	Sun 10 am	Sun 5:30 pm
READERS:	A Vlahadamis G Turnbull	T Simpson J Poljak	C Porreca M Aulsebrook	J Sullivan G Colusso
EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER	G Rapisarda H Fenech P Vujica T Micali B Empeigine M Camilleri	J Gauchi G Vanderwert N Bevan J Gilan D Sullivan	C Goodyer G Rapisarda G Zangari R Hibbs M Aulsebrook J Burxgx	
COUNTERS: CHURCH	G Adam	E Villegas		
CLEANERS: Group 4	M Newell P Newell	A Munari	S Strati	R Gentile
ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER	15/4/2018	22/04/2018	29/04/2018	6/5/2018
	Sandra Nguyen	Stella Leonello	Marianna Caruso	Connie Monteleone



FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Mass will be held on Monday 9th April at **9:00am** for the Feast of the Annunciation.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online. Thank you for supporting programs around the world that provide vulnerable people with the skills and opportunities they need to establish sustainable food sources for life.



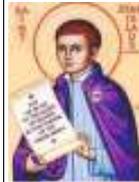
BIBLE STUDY: Every Thursday 10am - 11am Gathers in the **Church Meeting Room** (after the 9:10am Mass and Rosary). For further information please contact Meding on 9823 7121 or 0410 177 673.



'COME AND SIT WITH THE LORD' CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Every Tuesday at 8pm for 8:15pm start
Give 30 minutes of your busy day to Jesus and experience the difference in your life. Held in the Church chapel. If you are new to the meditation group can you please allow one hour. For further information, contact Frances on 0438 213 313.

Saints of the Week



St Stanislaus

Stanislaus was born of noble parents on July 26th at Szczepanow near Cracow, Poland. He was educated at Gnesen and was ordained there. He was given a canonry by Bishop Lampert Zula of Cracow, who made him his preacher, and soon he became noted for his preaching. He became a much sought after spiritual adviser. He was successful in his reforming efforts, and in 1072 was named Bishop of Cracow. He incurred the enmity of King Boleslaus the Bold when he denounced the King's cruelties and injustices and especially his kidnapping of the beautiful wife of a nobleman. When Stanislaus excommunicated the King and stopped services at the Cathedral when Boleslaus entered, Boleslaus himself killed Stanislaus while the Bishop was saying Mass in a chapel outside the city on April 11. Stanislaus has long been the symbol of Polish nationhood. He was canonized by Pope Innocent IV in 1253 and is the principle patron of Cracow.

Feast day: April 11



Pope Martin I

Elected pope in 649, Martin I had gotten in trouble for refusing to condone silence in the face of wrong. At that time there existed a popular heresy that held that Christ didn't have a human will, only a divine will. The emperor had issued an edict that didn't support Monothelism (as it was known) directly, but simply commanded that no one could discuss Jesus' will at all. He died in exile in the year 656, a **martyr** who stood up for the **right** of the Church to establish doctrine even in the face of imperial power.

Feast day: April 13

RAISE YOUR VOICES!

Entrance Antiphon: *Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.*

Communion Antiphon: *Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.*

Next Sunday:

Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday (Year B)

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Second Reading: I John 2:1-5

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

Reflection Questions.....

- ♦ The risen Jesus comes to me when..... Obstacles that block my believing in his Presence include.....
- ♦ What helps me grow in my belief in the risen Lord is..... My belief need to deepen because.....
- ♦ Jesus removes obstacles that keep me from growing in my belief in his continued Presence by.....

First reading

Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

117:2-4,15-18, 22-24

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say:

'His love has no end.'

Let the sons of Aaron say:

'His love has no end.'

Let those who fear the Lord say:

'His love has no end.'

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds.

I was punished, I was punished by the Lord,
but not doomed to die.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

Second reading

1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that

Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel

John 19-31

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord